

CHARACTER OF MILL AVENUE DISTRICT

Tempe is an unusual and progressive community of fertile ideas that we perhaps take for granted on occasion; but great things do not happen by accident. Leaders must rise to meet the needs and hopes of such a community...and Tempe has been fortunate to have visionary and stable leadership over the years, leadership that builds on the successes of the past. Mayor Hugh Hallman, recently elected to his second four-year term, continues the practice of "standing on the shoulders" of prior leadership as he seeks to help Tempe become a shining-example of a sustainable community.

The Downtown Tempe Community, Inc., works in close cooperation with the City and our Mayor and Council to help achieve our goal for a Mill Avenue District that is "...unsurpassed as an eclectic, authentic urbane oasis of 24-hour culture, lifestyle and commerce...the place you never want to leave." Mayor Hugh Hallman shares this vision and contributes his own considerable efforts to help us take the necessary steps to ensure the vitality of the urban experience. He's got the passion and the energy to help us "get it right;" he knows that we have an exciting future and he shares that excitement whenever and wherever the opportunities lead him.

PROFILE: Hugh Hallman **AGE:** 46

TITLE/ORGANIZATION: Mayor, City of Tempe

LENGTH OF TIME ASSOCIATED WITH MILL AVENUE DISTRICT: Born and raised in Tempe; first memory of time spent in downtown was 41 years ago.

EDUCATION: Undergraduate degree from Claremont Men's College in California, Econ/PoliSci w/minor in accounting; Juris Doctor from University of Chicago

MAJOR CHALLENGE IN YOUR BUSINESS: In community activism at the Mayor/Council level, we are deluged with challenges on all fronts, from neighborhoods who want park rehabilitation, to policing issues, to cross-jurisdictional issues. Even at the very top level, there are literally hundreds of details and constituencies to address.

MENTORS/OTHERS ADMIRER: My mother, literally THE most non-judgmental person I've ever known, had such a commitment to the community, along with a style and approach to dealing with people and problems that I so admired. And my father, at age 82, continues to demonstrate boundless energy and work ethic...no doubt the source for what some jokingly refer to as my "energizer bunny" persona.

HOBBIES/AVOCATIONS: Being Tempe's Mayor IS my hobby! I'm truly fortunate to have work that feeds my passion for community activism. And I'm fortunate to have a family that supports me in that passion.

- Q. How have you been involved to advance the goals of Mill Avenue District?
- A. From participating in street clean ups and manning booths at the Tempe Festival of the Arts as a child, to more grandiose visioning with local stakeholders for a sustainable District in recent years, to helping to negotiate

some of the most difficult development agreements of the last decade for the protection of our history and heritage, I've made Tempe's quality of life and a thriving downtown a big priority.

- Q. What story or aspect about Mill Avenue District is a favorite of yours?
- A. As a youngster, I recall the "old style" downtown we had where a place like Ben's Scooter Shop was a genuine "gathering place." I hope we can weave some of that into Mill Avenue District and Tempe Town Lake as we work to provide neighborhood-supportive businesses and places where people can "commune" in the true sense of an urban neighborhood.
- Q. If you ruled the world, what would you change in Mill Avenue District?
- A. If I were Tsar, I would demand lots of "irrational" developers, who are willing to invest more of their time, talent and treasure than the market might deem prudent in order to achieve remarkable results and a legacy of excellence.
- Q. What is your vision for the future of Mill Avenue District?
- A. I would love to speed up time! Some seeds are already sown and more are being sown...and now we must patiently and lovingly "tend the garden" to grow and nurture the most incomparable city in the state...and one with a reputation beyond Arizona. I'm impatient for that to occur!
- Q. Is there a particular personal success of which you are most proud?
- A. There are many that I might cite, but as my children grow and mature I'm delighted to find them becoming wonderful, funny and fascinating people. My wife and I are looking forward to doing that "end-zone dance" as proud parents of successful adult offspring.
- Q. What makes Hugh Hallman part of Mill Avenue District's "character?"
- A. Working with downtown stakeholders in May of 2004, we identified a huge number of issues to help us create a sustainable community and a thriving, stable economy for Mill Avenue District. Working with the Downtown Tempe Community, we recently gathered as many of our downtown landowners as we could to stimulate collaboration as we continue to help shape the "character" of this community. I'm excited to have a role in that ongoing process.